



Mark A. Danaj
Director

18 North County Street – 6th Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4355
Phone 847 377-2550
Fax 847 782-6090

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Contact:
Brooke Anderson
(847) 377-2156
Banderson@co.lake.il.us

Lake County Board Awards Brownfield Funds

WAUKEGAN, IL – The Lake County Board established a Brownfield fund in 2000 to assist municipalities and townships with assessing or cleaning up brownfield sites. At the Lake County Board meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2002, board members awarded Brownfield funds to both Grayslake and Zion.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

The Grayslake site, a former gas station and garage, will be used for the construction of a multi-purpose parking facility for Grayslake Community High School, Grayslake Community Park District, and the Lake Street Corridor. The awarded money is for reimbursement of up to \$6,006 for Phase II environmental analysis.

The Zion site is located at 3233 Sheridan Road, and will be redeveloped for the construction of a strip mall. The Brownfield money will be used to clean up on-site benzene contamination. The Lake County Board awarded a reimbursement amount of up to \$50,000 for this project.

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Lake County Board Awards Brownfield Funds – 2 of 2

Peggy Shorts, Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee, commented that, “The Brownfield program is designed to aid economic development throughout Lake County. It is exciting to partner with Grayslake and Zion in this endeavor”.

The Lake County Board appropriated \$600,000 for the Brownfield fund over the last 3 years, with each year’s budget set at \$200,000. County funds are provided on a one-to-one matching basis. Funds may be used to reimburse local governments for the cost of Phase I or Phase II environmental studies or remediation activities. The maximum request for county funds is \$100,000 per project site. Lake County Brownfield funds are intended to be a grant sharing opportunity to lower, not replace, local match sources.

Mundelein was the first municipality to receive Brownfields funding from the county. They were awarded \$57,956 for the remediation and clean up of a site used for the construction of a new Village police station.

The Community and Economic Development Committee of the Lake County Board has recently discussed Brownfield redevelopment policy issues. Future Brownfield requests may be subject to a new ranking system to give preference for developing brownfield sites for economic uses.

The annual deadline for submission of application materials is March 31st. For more information, please contact the Lake County Administrator’s Office at (847) 377-2230.